

2nd Annual Sidney ARS Research Farm Tour on June 25th

The public is invited to attend the second annual ARS “Dryland” Field Tour on Friday, June 25th from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Agricultural Research Service’s Sidney Research Farm. The event is being sponsored by the Richland County Extension Office and the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab (NPARL) in Sidney, MT and features a wide variety of research underway at the site. The morning’s activities conclude with a lunch provided by MSU Extension.

The tour’s line-up includes a special presentation by MSU Extension Cropping Systems Specialist Kent McVay who will discuss “Evaluating nitrogen rates and placement for annual forages.” Presentations and presenters include:

- Row configuration and planting density impacts on dryland corn
Brett Allen, NPARL Agronomist
- Safflower and annual legume production
Neil Riveland, Research Agronomist/Assistant Director, NDSU Williston Research Extension Center, Williston, ND
- Engineering plant materials and modifying cultural practices for more successful restoration
Erin Espeland, NPARL Plant Ecologist
- Natural enemies of alfalfa weevil in dryland and irrigated systems of Eastern Montana
Tatyana Rand, NPARL Research Ecologist
- Grasshopper outlook and management update
Dave Branson, NPARL Research Entomologist
- Diversified spring wheat systems improve crop yield and weed management
Andrew Lenssen, NPARL Weed Ecologist
- Evaluating nitrogen rates and placement for annual forages
Kent McVay, MSU Extension Cropping Systems Specialist, Southern Agricultural Research Center
- Water and N use of spring wheat and pea in diversified cropping systems
Brett Allen, NPARL Agronomist

Pesticide credits are also available for participants, including three private applicator points and two commercial. The Sidney area farmsite is located about 4 miles north of Sidney on MT Highway 16. Take a left on County Rd. 129 and another left on County Rd. 346 to get to the site. Everyone welcome!

The ARS farm tour at Sidney is not the only ARS tour coming up in June. The annual Froid Research Farm Tour is happening the day before - Thursday, June 24 beginning at 1 pm and features Froid Farm research plot tours along with talks on wind energy rights, the Healthy Pulse Initiative, and more and finishing up with the traditional steak supper. The Froid Research Farm is located 8 miles north of Culbertson on MT Highway 16.

Together, the back-to-back field days, June 24th (Froid) and 25th (Sidney) make up a “Dryland Double Header” for area growers. We hope you can join us at one or both of these educational events!